

SB-92 Basic Information
Non-Resident Take (NRT) of Raptors for Falconry:

This bill would insure and increase Montana falconers' access to trapping raptors for falconry in other states. SB-92 achieves this goal by enabling the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to allow, regulate, and manage take of raptors by licensed non-resident falconers. Expenses for the program will be passed on to non-resident applicants and will be revenue neutral or make money for Montana.

- Like ducks, raptors are a highly migratory national resource spending only a portion of their time in Montana or any state/country.
- Like ducks, most states allow non-resident falconers to take raptors within their borders. Montana is in the smallest of minorities without NRT.
- Many states are incorporating "reciprocity" clauses into their non-resident take regulations. Because Montana law does not allow non-residents to take raptors in this state, Montana falconers are increasingly prohibited from taking raptors in states that would otherwise allow it.
- The number of falconers is small and not growing significantly. Recent peer-reviewed and published scientific papers found that the level of take for falconry is too small to be measured. Take at these levels is not predicted to increase.
- The last 5 years for which there are data indicate there was an average of 10.4 raptors taken from the wild per year state-wide in Montana. The majority were lost or re-released
- The MBTA regulates the national take for falconry and allows non-resident take. Harvest numbers are collected and managed by both the State and Federal Governments. The USFWS indicates and court cases have confirmed that raptors taken by falconers do not become private property but that a right of possession is granted for falconry under rigorous permit conditions.
- With the passage of this bill, Montana falconers would recommend to MFWP a take of no more than three raptors per species allowed for non-residents state-wide.

Allowing take by non-resident falconers would have no effect on Montana raptor populations yet it would avail Montana falconer/sportsmen and sportswomen resources outside of our state.

Testimony from committee questions:

- This bill would not increase the number of hunters in the state and would have no effect on Sage Grouse.

"The real magic in falconry is when you go hunting ... and the wild raptor returns"
from: *A Rage for Falcons* by: Stephen Bodio.